

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1-7, 11, and 13 Under 35 USC §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,775,862 (Cullen) is respectfully requested on the grounds that the Cullen patent fails to disclose or suggest a fastening structure for a connector in which the distance between free sections of a resilient sheet is **larger** than the diameter of the connector, as claimed, such that the **free ends do not engage the connector** as it is inserted between the free ends. In the claimed invention, the free ends do not engage the connector as it is inserted, but rather only engage the connector when pressed by a fixture to be parallel to a plane of the substrate.

Claim 1 recites the embodiment of Figs. 4A and 4B, in which the connector is inserted through the opening without engagement by the free ends, and the connector is not secured until pressing by the fixture. In contrast, the distance between free ends of half nuts 45 of Cullen is **never larger** than the diameter of the connector, so that the free ends **continually engage** connector 72 as it is pushed through the opening and turned to flatten the nut without the intervention of any sort of fixture. This is clearly contrary to the claimed invention, and therefore the rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 USC §102(b) is clearly improper and should be withdrawn.

Having thus overcome each of the sole rejection made in the Official Action, expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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